



Town of Weare Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman
Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair
Wendy Stevens, Secretary
George Malette, Member
Jeff Jackson, Member
Chris Tuck, Member
Lisa Purington-Grolljahn,
Member

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – SEPT 11, 2013 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:16 pm by Chairman Andy Fulton

Present: Andy Fulton, George Malette, Steve Najjar, Jeff Jackson, Wendy Stevens, Chris Tuck and Lisa Grolljahn

Guests: None

- I. Mr. Fulton opened with an announcement welcoming new members and reporting that the Conservation Commission is now in full membership. Since no agenda was available, he gave a quick rundown of items for discussion and asked Members for their items.

Mrs. Tuck entered the meeting at 7:20 pm.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The August minutes were reviewed. Mr. Malette motioned to approve the August minutes as amended. Mr. Najjar seconded the motion. Mr. Malette, Mr. Najjar, Mr. Fulton and Mr. Jackson voted in favor of approving the minutes. Mrs. Stevens abstained. Mr. Fulton noted the April, May and July minutes still need to be approved and tabled the issue.

III. CONSERVATION RANKING

Mr. Najjar circulated a document written by Andrea Alderman, past chair which outlined ranking priorities of conservation parcels. Mr. Malette added literature which contained cluster development information and how it related to ranking. Mrs. Stevens circulated pg. 31 of the Weare Open Space Plan which outlined a specific ranking order from highest to lowest. Mr. Fulton brought out a map of unfragmented lands in Weare as well as the Co-Occurrence Model Map and gave an overview of what each of them indicated. Mr. Jackson inquired as to why slopes were noted among the documentation. Mr. Najjar stated that slopes create a unique biological habitat. He furthered that south facing slopes especially create a rare biological habitat. Mr. Najjar then asked Mr. Malette how the Planning Board addresses slopes and Mr. Malette replied that it is written that driveways cannot have more than a 9% slope. A conversation ensued regarding studies on cost savings by conserving land vs. expenses of developed land.

IV. PARCEL APPRAISAL

Mr. Najjar discussed last month's motion to approve appraisal costs on a current project, and stated that those costs may go beyond the motioned amount. Mr. Fulton summarized that if the cost comes out higher we can vote in it at the next meeting. Mrs. Tuck mentioned the land involved with this project is a beautiful spot for hiking and possible snowmobiling. Mr. Fulton mentioned the meadow habitat and also notated costs to maintain that habitat.

V. CROSSING AT FERRIN POND

Mr. Fulton said D&S Excavating has just about completed the bridge at Buxton Brook, and the bridge is substantial. It is a 22 foot open bottom structure which now separates the brook from the road. He has received the invoice for the work.

Mr. Fulton expressed concerns that during a previous visit, he encountered a group of 8 to 10 young ATV motorists who splashed through the water by the side of the new bridge. He is concerned they are

bypassing the bridge similar to activity at Eben Paige Rd. Mrs. Grohlljahn asked if a barricade could be constructed, saying that the purpose of the bridge was to prevent this. Mr. Fulton clarified that the bridge was constructed for street legal vehicles, and that ATVs have never been legal at Ferrin Pond at all. Mrs. Stevens asked if Fish and Game was responsible for enforcing this. Mrs. Grohlljahn thought the police would be involved on some level. Mr. Fulton responded that whoever is there at the time, and can witness the violations, can enforce them at that time. Mr. Najjar finished that Fish and Game has recently ticketed several ATV motorists at Ferrin Pond.

VI. CULVERT REMOVAL AND STREAMBED RESTORATION, FERRIN POND

Mr. Najjar made a motion to pay \$1,850 from the Conservation Fund for removing the culvert at Mountain Rd. Mr. Malette seconded the motion. Mr. Fulton noted it is for a culvert removal and streambed restoration. All voted in favor.

VII. DES ITEMS

Several DES letters to Weare citizens regarding incompleting applications were reviewed without comment. A Shore & Impact Permit for Lydia Hargreaves of 176 Russell Rd. on Lake Horace to construct a new garage and expand the driveway was reviewed without comment.

VIII. LAND USE COORDINATOR ITEMS

The commission reviewed an application for repairs to 3x3 cribs to raise an existing structure from Frank Morris at 116 Martin Rd. Map 108 Lot 20. It was noted without comment.

There was also a request for a variance to Article 28.9 regarding installing a driveway in a 25 foot buffer zone on Oak Hill Rd. Mr. Najjar noted there was no wetlands stamp on the proposal. Mr. Najjar stated essentially they are going to have to make their case to the Zoning Board. Mr. Fulton forwarded comments to Mr. Meaney and copied Tom Carr.

IX. HOLLY HILL ENCROACHMENT

Mr. Fulton reported that we received an email from Town Forester Jeremy Turner regarding open space boundaries for Holly Hill/Breed Brook. The survey and setting of monuments was completed. Meadowsend Timberland LTD will paint the boundaries. He mentioned that the commission can visit the possible paddock encroachment once the blazing is complete.

X. EMAIL ALIAS

Mr. Najjar requested that the Weare Conservation Commission group email alias be amended to include active members only. Currently it goes to Open Space Committee members, past members and active members. Mr. Fulton asked if correspondence and email replies were being received by members. Mrs. Tuck said the best way is to have everyone here at the table copied on all communications. Mr. Jackson agreed that this makes sense. Mr. Fulton will get in touch with Mrs. Connor to request the change.

XI. BOY SCOUTS TROOP 24/POOR FARM FOREST

Mr. Fulton reported that he received an email from Steve and Dave Couture of Boy Scouts Troop 24 regarding the Poor Farm Forest trail cleanup scheduled for 9/21-22. Without any concerns, Mr. Fulton will communicate approval to the Coutures.

XII. BANKS/SCHMID PURCHASE

Mr. Fulton did not get a chance to ask Mrs. Bolton about any Warrant Article limitations and summarized that we are operating under the assumption that our additional pledge is acceptable. Mrs. Tuck mentioned she was at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday. She stated that Mr. McSweeney of the Russell Foundation gave a summary of project status at that meeting. He mentioned to BOS that a \$200,000 Warrant was raised and the total amount is now \$510,000. Mrs. Tuck further reported that Mr. McSweeney stated that he will now go to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and NH Fish and Game to raise additional funds. The Board of Selectmen plan to do a site walk with Mike Dahlberg and Tim Redmond on a Saturday. The gravel pit and ice

skating rink were discussed. The Selectmen also brought up baseball fields. Mr. Fulton stated that he was concerned there was too much investment by the Conservation Commission and not enough input. Mrs. Stevens agreed and referred to Mr. Najjar's motion from last month, noting that our motion to expend an additional \$130,000 had specific provisions to it, specifically item 3: "3. The purchased property (exclusive of the approximate 20-acre gravel pit/recreation field) is to be managed by the conservation commission as conservation land." Mrs. Tuck said she was surprised we were not invited to do a site walk with them. Mr. Jackson asked if the Russell Foundation was heading up the project. Mr. Fulton indicated that the Society for the Protection of NH Forests was now heading this up according to Paul Doscher and a meeting needs to be arranged with all parties.

Mr. Najjar mentioned the cost of utilities perspective involved in inserting a ball field. Mrs. Stevens added that she did not want to see the agricultural lands converted into ball fields. Mrs. Grolljahn asked if we could deal with that as it occurred. Mrs. Stevens responded that it needed to be spelled out before closing or else that is how things get tricky. The commission all agreed we should be on the Banks/Schmid BOS site walk. Mr. Najjar recalled that Mildred Hall Trust funds are involved in the project which may also have specific requirements. Mr. Malette said certain language would have to be utilized. Mr. Fulton will contact Mrs. Bolton to inquire about accompanying the Board of Selectmen on the site walk.

XIII. TRAPPING APPLICATION, GLENN DUBOIS/WOODS FAMILY FOREST

Mr. Dubois' trapping application was reviewed, and it was noted that the application mentioned being able to take a deer should he happen upon one. Mr. Najjar stated absolutely not. Mrs. Grolljahn asked if trapping was grandfathered in. Mr. Fulton replied no. Mrs. Stevens recommended having the application resubmitted without mention of hunting deer, which is not trapping. Mr. Najjar made a motion to sign the trapping application with amendments which clarified the road may not be used for other hunting. Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Grolljahn left the meeting at 9:10 pm.

XIV. EASTMAN MOWING

Mr. Fulton reported that the field on Concord Stage Rd. has been mowed on the Eastman Conservation parcel. It was done for less than what was authorized.

XV. GENERAL

Mr. Fulton closed by requesting that if anyone is unsatisfied with the Weare Conservation Commission, or any of its members, to please address them directly with each other and work through the differences in order to work with the same expectations.

XVI. CONSERVATION HANDBOOKS

Mr. Malette made a motion to purchase eight handbooks from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

A lightning and strong wind storm occurred.

XVII. Mr. Fulton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm given the extraordinary weather going on outside. Mrs. Stevens asked about the motion on the floor. Mr. Malette seconded the motion to close the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy J. Stevens